



ALARM SYSTEM TIPS

The City of Mission Hills believes that properly designed and maintained alarm systems are one of the best crime prevention tools available. Medical alert alarms can also increase medical services to the community. We strongly believe that the more information available to the police and fire departments, the better service we can provide.

1. Alarm systems should be planned according to your lifestyle. As an example, homeowners who keep animals within the home would not want inside sensors because the animals might set off the alarms as they travel inside the home. Information on planning an alarm system can be obtained from the Chief of Police at **913-642-6868**.
2. **Time Delay Setting** – Each alarm has a time delay to allow the owner to set the alarm and then leave home without setting off the alarm. The shorter the time delay, the better the system. The burglar alarm should sound as soon as a suspect attempts to enter the home. A long delay will allow the burglar to get inside the home before the alarm goes off and increases the danger to the owner. We recommend a 15 to 30-second delay, but never more than a minute.
3. **Location of Controls** – Alarm controls that are placed in open view, close to doors can completely defeat the system. All the burglar has to do is cut the wires to disable the alarm. Controls should be concealed and out of plain view.
4. **Automatic Reset Systems** – Each alarm must have an automatic shutoff after six (6) minutes of activation for outdoor audible alarms. Many have automatic resets that keep turning the alarm on again over long periods of time. Be a good neighbor and provide complete information on the alarm registration, which will allow the police to make proper notification and get your alarm repaired quickly. This maintains your protection and keeps alarms from becoming a neighborhood nuisance.
5. **False Alarm Fines** – City ordinance provides that any alarm user shall be punished by a fine each time such alarm user's alarm system generates a false alarm in excess of three alarm signals in any one calendar year. The fourth, fifth and sixth false alarm signals during a calendar year result in a fine of \$50.00 each. All subsequent false alarm violations during a calendar year result in fines of \$100.00 up to \$500.00.
6. Many new systems have the audible portion of the alarm on the inside of the home. We recommend this procedure. It provides protections to the owner, but reduces the disruption to the neighborhood. We continue to recommend a flashing red light on the exterior of the home to provide added notification of the intrusion and added incentive for the burglar to leave the area.
7. Do you have special needs, such as a medical history that may require immediate and special services? If so, please provide complete information on your needs and whom to contact on the registration form.
8. Have you trained all family members and domestic help on the use of your alarm system? Many false alarms are the result of new employees who have not been properly trained on how the system works and what they are required to do.